

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOME 00997 080611Z

22

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W

----- 020639

R 071645Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 590

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TO, PINS

SUBJECT: PRES. EYADEMA OFF TO PARIS

REF: LOME 0949

1. PRESIDENT EYADEMA IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE TOMORROW A.M. FOR PARIS AND SUMMIT OF FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE. POLITICAL SITUATION HE LEAVES BEHIND IS SOMEWHAT TENSE. IN ADDITION TO OFFICERS REPORTED AS ARRESTED IN REFTTEL, HE HAS HAD LOCKED UP LT. COL. ADEWUI--FELLOW KABRE, THIRD RANKING OFFICER IN FAT, AND EYADEMA'S CO-CONSPIRATOR IN THE 1963 AND 1967 COUPS. SERIOUS BREAK WITH NORTHERN OFFICERS PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED TO BE STALWART OF HIS REGIME HAS CAUSED UNREST AMONG KABRE SOLDIERS AND OTHER NORTHERNERS WHO MAKE UP MAJORITY OF ENLISTED RANKS. ONE REPORT SAYS EYADEMA HAS REPLACED HIS REGULAR KABRE BODYGUARD WITH SOUTHERNERS.

2. COMMENT: UNUSUAL TENSION AMONG NORTHERNERS IN ARMY, CHRONIC SOUTHERN DISCONTENT, AND EYADEMA'S ABSENCE WILL MAKE REGIME SOMEWHAT MORE VULNERABLE TO CONSPIRACY THAN IT NORMALLY IS.

RAWLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LOME00997
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760177-0986
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760581/aaaacqsv.tel
Line Count: 49
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LOME 949
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRES. EYADEMA OFF TO PARIS
TAGS: PINS, TO, FR, (EYADEMA, GNASSINGBEE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006